

The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. XXVIII. LONDON, SEPTEMBER, 1896.

No. 9.

A HOUSE-INFESTING SPRING-TAIL

(*Lepidocyrtus americanus*, n. sp.).

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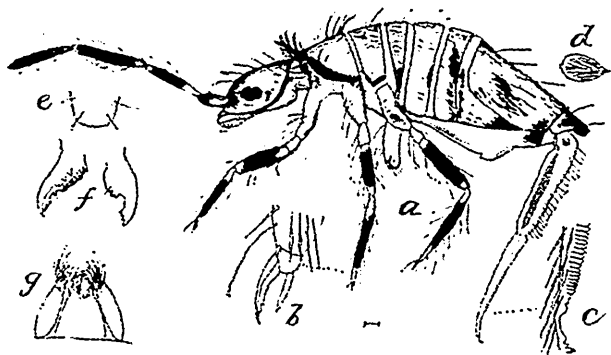


FIG. 22.—*Lepidocyrtus americanus*, n. sp. ●
a, lateral view of female; b, foot; c, tip of spring; d, scale; e, labrum;
f, mandibles; g, maxillae and labium (original).

In the course of a comprehensive study of insects frequenting dwellings, attention was early drawn to a very handsome little Collembolan, which occurs commonly in moist situations in houses in Washington. It may often be found on window-sills, especially if there is unusual moisture from the presence of window plants, or in bathrooms, and, in fact, wherever moist conditions prevail. This species is a very handsome one, and seems, from reference to the authorities, to be undescribed. From the manner of its holding the head, bent downwards almost at right-angles to the thorax, it would seem to fall into the genus *Lepidocyrtus*, erected by Sir John Lubbock. In habit it has in Europe a close ally in *Scira domestica*, Nicolet, which, as its name implies, is a frequenter of houses, and is separated generically from *Lepidocyrtus* by rather unimportant characters. Before referring to this insect in a popular article, it seems desirable to have a technical description put on record, and the following characterization of the species has therefore been prepared:—